

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently amended) A method of coating an implantable medical device, comprising:

adding a copolymer of an ethylene comonomer with a carboxylic acid co-  
monomer to a solvent system to form a composition;

applying the composition to an implantable medical device; and

allowing the solvent system to evaporate.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the carboxylic acid co-  
monomer is selected from a group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid,  
maleic acid, itocanic acid, and esters thereof.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein adding the copolymer to  
the solvent system further comprises neutralizing the copolymer in a volatile or a  
non-volatile base and dispersing the copolymer in water and/or a co-solvent.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising adding a  
therapeutic agent to the solvent system.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the solvent system com-  
prises toluene.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the solvent system fur-

ther comprises a chlorinated solvent and a lower alcohol.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the carboxylic acid comonomer has a content in the copolymer ~~is~~ no less than 5% by weight.
51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the carboxylic acid comonomer has a content in the copolymer ~~is~~ no more than 50% by weight.
52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the carboxylic acid comonomer has a content in the copolymer ~~is~~ no more than 50% by weight.
53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the co-polymer is ethylene acrylic acid.
54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the device comprises a stent.
55. (Canceled)